

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A method of downloading copy protected dedicated  
3 applications to a user station from an application source  
4 comprising the steps of: .

5 sending an order for an application to an  
6 application source the order comprising at least an  
7 unique identification information which identifies the  
8 user station and the user of the user station to the  
9 application source;

10 upon identification, preparing a dedicated  
11 application by configuring a general application  
12 accessible to the application source to include the  
13 unique identification information specific to the user  
14 station; and

15 downloading the dedicated application directly to  
16 the user station.

17 2. The method of claim 1 including the further step of:

18 comparing the unique identification information  
19 to identify the user station to the application  
20 source by using a library of identification  
21 information accessible to the application source.  
22

23 3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

24 before the step of downloading occurs, the  
25 steps occur of: saving the dedicated application to  
26 a location accessible by the user station and  
27 informing the user station that the dedicated  
28 application is ready to be downloaded to the user  
29

1 station from the location.

2  
3 4. The method of claim 1 wherein:  
4 the identification information includes time and  
5 date of dedicated application download information.  
6

7  
8 5. The method of claim 1 wherein:  
9 the dedicated application is a setup application.  
10

11 6. The method of claim 1 wherein:  
12 the step of identifying identifies the user station  
13 for billing purposes;  
14

15 7. The method of claim 1 wherein:  
16 the steps of sending the order, and downloading the  
17 dedicated application, occur via a wireless network.  
18

19 8. The method of claim 3 wherein:  
20 the identification information is checked by the  
21 user station every time the dedicated application is run.  
22

23 9. A method of directly automatically downloading copy  
24 protected applications from a distributor to a user station  
25 from an application source without requiring contact between a  
26 user of the user station and a manufacturer of the application  
27 comprising the steps of:

1        sending a template version of an application from a  
2        manufacturer to a distributor, the template version  
3        including a variable of known value;

4        ordering an application from the distributor  
5        including automatically identifying the user station via  
6        a code specific to the user station;

7        upon placing the order, automatically replacing the  
8        variable with the code specific to the user station to  
9        make the application a dedicated application which is  
10       copy protected, and which will only run on the user  
11       station with a matching code; and

12       automatically downloading the dedicated application  
13       to the user station.

14  
15       10. The method of claim 9 wherein:  
16       replacing the variable is performed by a binary  
17       patch method.

18  
19       11. the method of claim 9 wherein:  
20       the steps are performed over a wireless network.

21  
22       12. The method of claim 9 wherein:  
23       the step of ordering includes automatically checking  
24       the code against a library of authorization codes accessible  
25       to the distributor.

26  
27       13. A system for ordering and downloading copy protected  
28       dedicated applications to a user station from an application  
29       source, the system comprising:

1 (a) a user station that signals at least one unique  
2 identification code when placing an order;

3 b) an application source responsive to the user station  
4 for receiving and checking the identification code for  
5 authentication purposes;

6 c) an application including a variable set by a  
7 manufacturer of the application, said application responsive  
8 to: a command for substituting the identification code for  
9 the variable to create a dedicated application, to a command  
10 for sending the dedicated application to the user station, to  
11 a command for executing the dedicated application at the user  
12 station, and to a command for comparing and matching the  
13 identification code of the application to the identification  
14 code of the user station.

15  
16 14. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

17 a library of identification codes accessible to the  
18 user station for providing comparison data to the user station  
19 when the user station checks the identification code signalled  
20 from the user station to the application source for  
21 authorization purposes.

22  
23 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the dedicated  
24 application has the additional feature of:

25 whenever the dedicated application is executed the  
26 identification code is checked.

27  
28 16. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

1           the application source is located remotely from the  
2   manufacturer of the application.